

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 4 Week 8

Friday, 9th December 2022

Reception to Year 6 Co-Educational Catholic Primary School

5 Portland Street, Penola SA 5277

Telephone: (08) 8737 2902 [www.mmms.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmms.catholic.edu.au)



*in all things love*

### UPCOMING DATES

- December -

- 09 Playgroup (9.30am)  
R/1 Assembly
- 12 Occasional Care (8.45am)  
Yr 6 Class Mass (11.30am)  
Reports Go Home
- 14 Whole School End of Year Mass (9.15am)  
Farewell Assembly and Guard of Honour (2.30pm)
- 15 **Professional Learning Days**  
Student Free Day
- 16 **Professional Learning Days**  
Student Free Day
- January -
- 30 Term 1 Commences



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

## Class News

### Year 6

Year 6 students have been completing their inquiry about Australia and its involvement in war. Students chose to research topics of their choice and presented their learning in an exhibition in the hall. Topics included: The Light Horse, War Nurses, the trenches and battles, unknown soldiers and studies of our ancestors in war. A variety of mediums were used to display their research.



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# from the principal

Dear Families of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

As the end of the year draws to a close and we reflect back on the 2022 year, I am amazed at all that we have achieved. Thank you to the school community for your support and kindness. We thank the amazing staff for all their hard work in providing rich learning opportunities for our students throughout the year. To our enthusiastic, motivated, and dedicated students, who have shown that they are determined in education and life as they have learnt about themselves, both academically and emotionally.

Our biggest project of all, the Building and Play Space Project finally became a reality and it is with a joyful heart that we see these spaces being used and enjoyed by all, students and staff.

## **Christmas Carols**

On Monday night we celebrated a wonderful Christmas Celebration and Awards evening, with a last minute venue change, the atmosphere of community and Christmas joy was certainly felt by all. It was wonderful to see so many families stay afterwards for the BBQ.

The R/1 Nativity set the scene and reminded us about the true meaning of Christmas, with a little twist of humour. All classes then entertained us with some beautiful Christmas carols.

## **Farewells**

We farewell our leaving families; Goodes, Brokken, Reschke, Briggs, and Oakley and thanked them for their contribution to our school over the years. Particularly to Nicole Reschke, Tracey Brokken and Judy Mountford, who served on our School Board over a number of years. May they forever hold fond memories of their time at Mary MacKillop Memorial School.

We also farewell our graduating Year 6 students Henry, Evie, Jackson, Makenna, Harper, Sarah, Ava, Alice, Alida, Charlie, Poppy, Nate, Emily, Josh, Milly, Mawson and Will and wish them well in the next step of their schooling. They will celebrate their Graduating Class Mass and Luncheon with their

families on Monday, with a final farewell at our End Of Year Assembly.

Finally, we farewell staff members Jenny Herbert, Kathy O'Connell, Cobie Walters and Ella Hutchesson.

This year the School Board supported the employment of an Administration Trainee. The Admin Trainee position was undertaken by Ella Hutchesson and she has been a valuable asset to the school. Ella has fulfilled the role of social media guru, with a flair for advertising and marketing, has developed new initiatives in admin and has provided assistance to both Janice and I in front office support. We thank her for her contribution to Mary MacKillop Memorial School and wish her all the very best as she begins her further studies next year in Adelaide. We look forward to welcoming our new trainee in the new year.

We also farewell Mrs Kathy O'Connell for one year as she takes up the challenge of teaching at Tenison Woods College in 2023. Kathy has been an incredible asset to Mary MacKillop Memorial School, with her dedication to preparing our senior students for secondary school and her vision to develop the Performing Arts program. We thank Kathy for her commitment and passion to education and wish her all the very best in 2023 and look forward to welcoming her back in 2024.

We say goodbye to Mrs Cobie Walters who will be returning to the Riverland to her position at St Joseph's in Barmera for Term 1 and then embarking on the most important job of all, along with her partner Simon- that of parenthood. We thank Cobie for her commitment to educating and nurturing the children in her care and wish her all the very best. We look forward to hearing the wonderful news of the new bub in the future.

Jenny Herbert has finished her time at Mary MacKillop Memorial School and we thank Jenny for her enthusiasm and contribution over the last 20 odd years. Jenny has made a significant impact here, not just for the students, but also for the staff. She has been an amazing asset to the school, where no task has been too much trouble, and her heart and mind

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# from the principal

has always been on what is best for the child. We thank Jenny for her dedication to the profession. We wish Jenny all the very best for what life brings in the future.

We will miss all of these amazing students, families and staff and wish them God's blessings for the future.

## Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day

Last Friday the whole school ventured to Beachport for our Surf Lifesaving Day. It was a very successful day with all students engaging in both water and beach activities to further develop skills and knowledge about the beach and ocean. We value this day as many of our families venture to the beach over the summer holidays and it reminds the students about important beach and sea safety, for example landmarks, rips and waves, and how to protect the coastline. We thank the Beachport Surf Lifesaving Club for their continued support and for the many volunteers who give up their time to provide this important day for us. We are truly grateful.

I would personally like to thank each and every member of our school community for the contribution made in 2022, in whatever capacity.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas.

*NM Coote*

Nicole



in all things love

# Community News

## Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Milly, Josh, Frank, Ellie, Indi, Kira, Lucas, Pearl, Robert, Josh and Alice for receiving a flourish award at Week 6's assembly. Congratulations to Will, Winnie, Jenson, Eddie, Chloe, Poppy, Paige, Alice and Levi for receiving a flourishing award at this week's assembly.



## Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph's

This year Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 5pm at St Joseph's Church Penola. It will be a Family Mass with the opportunity for children to re-enact the Nativity during the Gospel, read Prayers of the Faithful and readings of the day.

If you are intending on attending this Mass please let me know and I will allocate roles for children. It would be wonderful to see all children at the Mass. Either email [ncote@mmms.catholic.edu](mailto:ncote@mmms.catholic.edu) or call the school to express interest before Tuesday 13th December.

We will have a practice before school finishes next Wednesday and a practice at 4.40pm on Christmas Eve at the church. There will be costumes for younger children however if you are over 8 please dress as an angel or shepherd.



# Community News

## Children's University

This year 6 children participated in the Children University program. On Tuesday 29th of November the graduation ceremony was held in the Naracoorte hall. The students dressed in their graduating gowns, hats and tassels and received their certificates. Congratulations to Alida, Makenna, Ruby, Emily, Ben and Juliet in achieving your hours and graduating this year.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday Mrs Walters (8th), we hope you enjoyed your day

We wish Mrs Smith (12th), Harper (16th), Kenzo (20th), Alex (24th), Winnie (24th), Will (26th), Matthew (26th), Miss Romi (29th) Saige (30th Dec) a Happy Birthday over the holiday break. In the new year we wish Grace (8th), Ruby (10th), Eddie and, Jimmy M (14th) and Charlie (15th) a Happy Birthday.

## PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL

\$20 BOSS PROJECT

## CHRISTMAS FETE

THURSDAY  
15 DECEMBER 2022

4:30-7:30PM  
PHS FRONT LAWN

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE

Gifts and goodies to purchase... chopping boards...candles...bath bombs and much more.

Come down and support our camp fundraising.

CASH ONLY

ALL WELCOME



MARY MACKILLOP  
PENOLA

Friday 9th December 2022 | Week 8 Term 4

## Celebrations and Farewells

A reminder of events for the end of the year.

### Monday 12th December

Reports go home

Year 6 Class Mass and luncheon

Class swaps for 2023

### Wednesday 14th December

Thanksgiving whole school Mass @ 9.15 (all invited)

End of Year Assembly @ 2.40pm farewelling staff and students; followed by Guard of Honour (all invited)



## School Captains 2023

Congratulations to Sophie and Sidney who will take on the role of School Captains for MMMS in 2023. We wish them the very best as they prepare to lead the school next year. Thank you to Milly and Charlie for their outstanding leadership in 2022. They have led with integrity and respect, modelling the values of the Josephite Sisters in their words and actions.



## Award Recipients

We congratulate all students on an outstanding year. We also congratulate those who were award recipients at our Awards Evening on Monday night.

Charlie P	The Marjory Glynn Award
Anna	The RSL Young Achiever Award
Milly	The Rita Mulligan Award
Will	The Damian Flint Award
Jax	The Lions Encouragement Award
Alice	The McPherson Family Award
Camilla and Jackson	The MacKillop - Woods Award



# Community News

## Mary MacKillop Centre

The Penola Centre gift shop has a special Christmas table during December with nativity sets, gifts, and lovely Christmas cards.

The 2023 Josephite Calendars are also available for sale in the Centre \$9 each. They have beautiful images with inspirational quotes from Saint Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. They would make a nice Christmas present!

As well as Christmas, there is a range of cards for birthdays, anniversaries, bereavements and sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, First Reconciliation, Communion and Marriage).

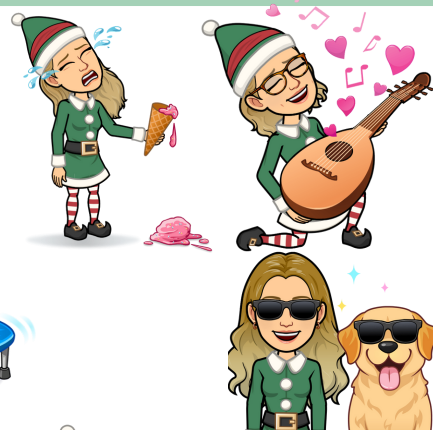
## Transition Afternoon

On Monday all students will spend the afternoon with their class and teacher for next year. We especially look forward to Miss Ashlee Fensom visiting our school and getting to know her students for 2023 and the wider Mary MacKillop Community. We extend her a very warm welcome!

## End of Year Reporting

Reports will be sent home on Monday 12th December. The End of Year Report is a comprehensive summary of your child's learning throughout the year. If you have any questions about your child's report, please contact your child's class teacher.

Merry Christmas from  
MMMS Staff



MARY MACKILLOP  
PENOLA

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## VACSWIM 2022

Enrolments for VACSWIM 2022/23 are now OPEN!

Penola (am) & Millicent (pm)  
Block 1: 19th to 23rd December 2022

Nangwarry (am)  
Block 3: 9th to 13th January 2023

Innovative Leisure Management will be returning for Wattle Range Council VACSWIM Programs in the 2022/23 season. Please be aware that bookings are essential and only made via the VACSWIM Website.

<https://www.vacswimsa.com.au/enrol/>

Any questions contact  
innovativeleisuremanagement@outlook.com



## Text Absentee Number

When texting the Absentee Line to explain your child's absence from school please make sure you put both their name **and reason** so it can be recorded properly.

**0459 799 596**

## House Points

**Cameron** 40

**McCormack** ★ 25

**Woods MacKillop** 10



# Catholic Identity



Have you ever wondered... what is Christmas? Click on the above picture to find out more.

## Advent Calendar

As mentioned in my last newsletter article, Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas. The Family Faith Formation team have prepared an Advent calendar for families to use throughout the Advent season. I encourage you to click on the image below for a calendar that you can use with your family for the remainder of Advent. There are some fantastic activities that you can do as a family as well as some great 'faith facts' that help explain some of the symbols and meanings associated with Advent.



## The Giving Tree

Thank you all for the generous donations for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. These donations will be used to support individuals and families doing it tough this Christmas. The staff at Vinnies, Mt Gambier also wish to pass on their thanks and are very grateful for the contributions of our community. These donations will be taken down on Monday, if you have anything to donate please do so by Monday 12 December.



## Liturgies and Masses

### Term 4

WEEK 9 (Monday 12/12)  
Year 6 Graduation Mass 11.30am

WEEK 9 (Wednesday 14/12)  
Whole School Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Dev

**SUNDAY 11th December**  
**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (9.00am)**

Gospel:  
Matthew 11: 2-11

## Merry Christmas

I would to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and Happy new year. 2022 has been a massive year, both for our school and myself personally. Thank you all for your support in helping our school to flourish this year. Thank you all for welcoming me into the school and community that is Mary MacKillop Memorial School. I am looking forward to continuing in 2023 and being part of this wonderful little school.

Sam Baxter







# photo gallery

## Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw